

2003-22

Clerk of the Court
PO Box 30052
Lansing MI 48909

6/19/03

The proposed revision of the Child Support calculation formula will decrease childrens' standard of living. When children are with the non custodial parent their expenses, which are borne (usually totally) by the custodial parent, do not decrease. Their home must be maintained and the utilities paid. These expenses do not decrease when the children are gone for a couple of days. The corresponding increase in the expenses to the non custodial parent amounts to a few extra groceries. The non custodial parent is usually in a better financial situation anyway. Child support does not cover the entire cost of raising children. Childrens' needs for clothing, extracurricular and school expenses do not decrease and these are paid by the custodial parent.

I can also imagine non custodial parents trying to take the kids for longer periods of time just to decrease their support obligation. Can you imagine how this would make children feel? I'm sure there are some angry ex spouses out there who would tell the kids all about this.

The current formula works. There is no need for change.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hazen

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